

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15, 17-20, 54, and 55 were examined. The claims have been amended and cancelled as noted above. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 20 as lacking adequate written description has been overcome by amending claim 1 to recite the specific language referred to by the Examiner at the top of page 3 of the Office Action. Thus, it is believed that the amendment to claim 20 will overcome the rejection.

All examined claims were also rejected over published U.S. Patent Application 2003/0083687 to Pallazza, either for anticipation or for obviousness in combination with various secondary references. Such rejection is overcome as follow.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more particularly recite a preferred embodiment of the present invention. As now amended, claim 1 recites that the permanent fold line "is a groove formed by a blade scoring the outer surface" of the balloon. While the Examiner has pointed to various pleats and heat-formed fold lines, nowhere does the Examiner point to prior art which would teach or suggest using a scoring blade for forming a fold line. It is noted that such scoring is taught in the present application in Figs. 11 and 12, in paragraphs 63 through 67 in the Specification.

Independent claim 15 has been similarly amended to clarify that the fold lines include grooves which have been "formed by a blade scoring the outer surface" of the balloon.

For these reasons, Applicants believe that independent claims 1 and 15, as well as all claims dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance. As claims 54 and 55, the only other pending claims, have now been cancelled, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/776,457
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 3731 dated April 4, 2007

PATENT

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner has invited to telephone the undersigned at (650) 326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heslin
Reg. No. 29,541

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
JMH:klm/jke
60964248 v1